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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Twenty-fifth session of the Commission/ sixteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers

Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
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PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR AFRICAN ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT

1. Since the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (TEPCOW) and the Conference of Ministers last reviewed the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 (UN-PAAERD), a number of activities and initiatives have been undertaken within the framework of the Programme by the United Nations Steering Committee and the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Implementation of the UN-PAAERD and by the United Nations General Assembly and the United Nations system. The purpose of this note is to highlight these activities.

2. Recent meetings of the United Nations Steering Committee and the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on UN-PAAERD focused on the elaboration of a work plan to monitor and report on the implementation of the UN-PAAERD during 1989-1990 as well as the review of the first set of reports prepared under the plan. The work plan specifies, by type of activity, monitoring reports that are required from the various agencies of the United Nations system. These reports are intended to provide inputs for the final report which the Secretary-General will submit to the forty-sixth session of General Assembly on the implementation of the Programme and inform the international community of the progress made in the implementation of the UN-PAAERD. (The work plan is attached as annex I). At its tenth meeting, held in Cairo during 9 to 11 January 1990, the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force undertook a preliminary review of 23 reports which were prepared by 12 United Nations agencies as part of the work plan. (A list of the reports is attached as annex II). These and the remaining reports will be considered in a substantive manner and in-depth by future meetings of the Task Force.

3. At the request of African countries, the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly held a debate on 17 November 1989 on the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation (AAF-SAP).[1] It will be recalled that AAF-SAP has been developed in response to the call of the General Assembly and the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole on the Mid-term Review and Appraisal of the UN-PAAERD, 1986-1990 urging that African countries should increase their efforts in the search for a viable conceptual and practical framework for economic structural adjustment programmes in keeping with the long-term development objectives and strategies at the national, subregional and regional levels".[2] Subsequent to the endorsement of AAF-SAP in April 1989 by the twenty-fourth session of the Commission/fifteenth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers, it was endorsed in July 1989 by the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity. At the end of the debate, the General Assembly adopted, by 137 votes to 1 vote and no abstentions, resolution A/44/L.20/Rev.1 in which it takes note with interest of AAF-SAP and "invites the international community, including the multilateral financial and development institutions, to consider the Framework as a basis for constructive dialogue and fruitful consultation".[3] While opposing the resolution, the United States welcomed the contribution AAF-

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[1] African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation (AAF-SAP), E/ECA/CM.15/6/Rev.3.

[2] General Assembly, A/RES/43/27, 17 January 1989, p.11.

[3] General Assembly Resolution A/44/L.20/Rev.1, p.2.

SAP has made to the international discussion on adjustment and further stated that "Structural adjustment is a dynamic and evolving process, and we look forward to continued productive discussions in the appropriate settings".*

4. The UN-PAAERD and the critical economic situation were also the subject of discussion at the ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Belgrade in September 1989. In a resolution entitled the Critical economic situation in Africa, the Heads of State or Government "expressed their serious concern at the continued deterioration of the economic and social situation in most African countries" and "also drew the attention of the international community to the fact that three years after the adoption of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD) by the General Assembly, the international community has not yet given the appropriate support to its implementation despite vigorous and significant policy reforms pursued by African countries, which had exacted severe social and political costs."** The resolution, inter alia:

> "1. Urged the developed countries and the multilateral financial and development institutions not only to increase, in real terms, resource flows to Africa but also to improve the terms and conditions on which resources are distributed;
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> 2. Called upon the international community to accelerate the effective implementation of UN-PAAERD by adopting policies conductive to accelerating growth and development in African countries;
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> 3. Recommended that the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes (AAF-SAP) should constitute a basis for constructive dialogue between African countries and their development partners in the implementation and financing of country programmes".

5. A number of activities within the framework of the UN-PAAERD continued to be implemented. It will be recalled that the General Assembly, at the Mid-Term Review and Appraisal of the UN-PAAERD requested that "within the context of the Programme of Action, the Secretary-General of the United Nations should consult with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, other relevant organizations and interested governments with a view to establishing a group of experts to undertake an in-depth assessment of the question of African commodities and the scope for export diversification."*** The work of the High Level Expert Group which the United Nations Secretary-General subsequently established to study and prepare a report on the problems of African commodities and how to deal with them under the chairmanship of Mr.

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*/ Statement by Ambassador M. James Wilkinson, United States Representative to forty-fourth session of U.N. General Assembly on Explanation of vote on resolution A/44/L.20/Rev.1, Press Release USUN 166-(89), p.2.

**/ NAC 9/EC/Decl./Rev.1, p.1.

***/ [illegible] p.[illegible]

***/ See also Assembly Res.S/18/2, Annex, p.2.

Malcolm Fraser is still in progress. It is envisaged that the report of the Group would be ready for consideration by the current session of the ECA Conference of Ministers. It is not clear at this point of time, however, whether that will be the case.

6. The United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force published a study entitled "South African Destabilization: The Economic Cost of Front-line Resistance to Apartheid". The study assessed the devastating burden imposed on the governments and people of Southern Africa by South Africa's acts of destabilization and the responses of the countries as well as the international community in countering the impact of destabilization; and delineated, in concrete terms, the various actions that are needed from the international community to sustain recovery and development in the subregion in the face of these destabilization acts. The study was formally launched by H.E. Dr. Kenneth Kaunda, the President of Zambia and Chairman of the Front-line States, in Kitwe, Zambia on 14 October 1989. A conference on Africa's debt - jointly organized by the United Nations Steering Committee Secretariat, the American Non-Governmental Organization and the African-American Institute under the sponsorship of members of the United States Congress - was held on 13 June 1989 in Washington, D.C. The Conference discussed aspects related to links between debt, commodity prices, financial flows and development; development, debt and the private sector; and US policy on African recovery and development.

7. Following the publication of AAF-SAP, the World Bank report *Africa's Adjustment and Growth in the 1980s and ECA's Preliminary Response to the World Bank/UNDP Africa's Adjustment and Growth in the 1980s* and at the invitation of the President of the World Bank, he, the Executive Secretary of ECA, the Secretary-General of the OAU, the President of the African Development Bank, the Administrator, Deputy Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa of UNDP, the Deputy-Director of UNICEF, the Deputy Director of the African Department of the IMF and the representative of the Director-General of DIEC met at the headquarters of the Bank on 10 May 1989 to exchange views on the serious challenges facing Africa and, particularly, the programmes being proposed to deal with them. "A Joint Statement on Africa's Long-Term Development" was issued by the participants at the end of that meeting. The statement declared that "while participants recognized that areas of disagreement remained, they emphasized their determination to work together and collaborate in the wide areas of consensus that exist. They agreed to strengthen their mechanisms to achieve that result". It is important to recall here some of the significant points of consensus made in the statement:

> "As the basic approach to adjustment issues has evolved, it has become clear that adjustment must be seen as part of a long-term development approach and that it must take full account of the human dimension. Stronger efforts are required to assure that this consensus is translated into action. ... While sustainable economic growth is imperative, it is only the means to the overarching objective of improving human welfare - for example, reducing infant mortality, increasing educational opportunity, improving health and ensuring food security. Economic adjustment must lead to the long-term improvement in the quality of life of the African people. Particular attention should be given to protecting vulnerable groups during the adjustment process, including protection of core budget expenditure on social sector programmes. Special emphasis should

be placed on employment opportunities... It was emphasized that policy reforms, whatever their form, must be relevant to specific country situations and must be designed, implemented and owned by African countries themselves".[5] (Full text of statement appears in annex III).

It was also agreed in the statement that "further steps should be taken to strengthen collaboration and the channels of communication among the Bretton Woods institutions, United Nations agencies and the African regional organizations". Within this frame, and acting on invitations by the Bank and IMF, two separate meetings took place at the end of November 1989 in Washington between staff members of ECA, the Bank and the IMF to discuss implementation of AAF-SAP, the World Bank's recent long-term perspective study on Africa, *From Crisis to Sustainable Growth*, and structural adjustment programmes in Africa. Such consultations will continue in future.

8. The International Conference on Popular Participation in the Recovery and Development Process in Africa, the third in a series of international conferences organized in relation to the implementation of the UN-PAAERD, was held in Arusha, the United Republic of Tanzania, from 12 to 16 February 1990. The highly successful conference, organized by a joint Preparatory Committee of NGOs and United Nations agencies under the auspices of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Implementation of the UN-PAAERD at the regional level, was attended by over 500 participants representing African and Northern non-governmental and grass-roots organizations, youth, women's and trade union organizations, United Nations agencies and African and Northern Governments. After five days of intensive plenary and workshop sessions discussing the theme of *Putting the People First*, the Conference culminated in the unanimous adoption of the *African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation (Arusha, 1990)*. The Charter will, in addition to being submitted to the current meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers, be submitted to the twenty-sixth session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU and the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

9. Efforts by all concerned, particularly by the United Nations System, will need to be intensified to accelerate the implementation of the UN-PAAERD during the remaining period in the life of the Programme and to continue to sensitize the international community for the need to do so. It is extremely vital that interest in and support for Africa should not wane as a result of the recent remarkable developments in Eastern Europe. While the dawn of freedom is to be welcomed, international preoccupation with Eastern Europe, particularly among major Western donors, should not be permitted to shift attention away from the needs of developing countries in general and Africa in particular. The tenth meeting of the Task Force deliberated on this issue and felt that concerns should now be raised forthrightly at every United Nations and related international meetings throughout the current and coming year to ensure that Africa's future needs are in no way put at risk. The economic situation in Africa remains to be a cause of great concern and co-operative actions and levels of international support must not falter. Indeed, the challenge in the 1990s will even be greater as development efforts and international support need to move

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[5] A Joint Statement on Africa's Long-Term Development, Press Release by the World Bank.

away from dealing with the symptoms of socio-economic malaise to concentrating on the long-term restructuring and transformation of the African economies if a process of accelerated self-sustained growth, development and equity is to be set in motion on the continent.

Annex I

UN-IATF WORK PLAN ON UN-PAAERD
MONITORING AND REPORTING ACTIVITIES, 1989-1990

	Activity	Reference
Trade		
9.1	Secretary-General's Study on African Commodities and Export Diversification (UNCTAD), UN/DIEC, UN/DIESA, UNDP, ECA IBRD, IMF, FAO, consultation with OAU	MTR para. 65 (e) para. 60
	External debt	
9.2	Status report on measures taken to alleviate Africa's debt burden, one year after the Berlin Meeting (IBRD), IMF, UNDP, UN/DIEC, UN/DIESA, UNCTAD. The joint secretariat of ECA/ADB/OAU/ACM to prepare a report as well	MTR para. 66
Resource flows		
9.3	Status reports on:	
	(i) Multilateral fund replenishments and quick-disbursement measures: reports in 1989 and again in 1990 (IBRD, IMF, IFAD, ADB)	MTR para. 63 (c)
	(ii) Bilateral flows 1988 and 1989, and measures to improve quality and rapidity: reports in 1989 and again in 1990 OECD	MTR para. 63 (a) (b) (d)
9.4	Analytical report on role of food aid in African recovery and development. (WFP), FAO, World Bank, ECA, IFAD.	MTR para. 26

9.5 Progress of implementation of UN/PAAERD

Analysis of urgency re-allocations and increases in financial and other resources and other responses (DIEC; assigned to UN/PAAERD Steering Committee secretariat to co-ordinate) all departments and agencies.[3] MTR paras. 72,73

Co-ordination

9.6 Progress reports on:

(i) Improved co-ordination of donor programmes, enhancement of CCs and RTs
IBRD, UNDP MTR para. 63

(ii) Improved country programming by UN system
(DIEC), UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF MTR para. 74

Structural adjustment programmes and alternatives to SAPs

Progress reports on:

9.7 Social indicators for monitoring the impact of structural adjustment programmes MTR para 55 (b)
(UNDP) This is an ongoing project of UNDP, IBRD, ADB and ECA.

9.8 How structural adjustment programmes are taking social dimensions into account MTR para 55 (iii & iv)
(UNDP and IBRD) This is an ongoing project of UNDP, ISRD, ADB and ECA

9.8 (i) The impact of structural adjustment programmes on the human and social dimensions of Africa's recovery and development MTR para. 66
All agencies to report

9.8 (ii) Alternatives to structural adjustment programmes (ECA) and other agencies MTR para. 55 (c)

3/ With respect to studies on effectiveness of technical assistance in Africa, a synthesis paper was considered by the tenth meeting of TATF.

Agriculture

9.9	Progress reports on:	
(i a)	Intensified efforts for <u>early-warning systems</u> (FAO), UNIDO, WFP, WFC, IFAD	MTR para. 46
(i b)	National food security arrangements (FAO), UNIFEM, WFP, WFC, ECA, IFAD	MTR para. 46
(ii a)	Food production with focus on small holder agriculture (IFAD), FAO, UNIDO, UNIFEM, WFP, WFC, ECA	MTR para. 43
(ii b)	Report on processing of agricultural commodities (UNCTAD)	MTR para. 48
(ii c)	Report on agricultural investment (FAO), WFP, IFAD, ECA, World Bank	
(iii)	Strengthening capacities of African women farmers (UNIFEM/ECA), FAO, WFC, ILO, NGOs	MTR para. 47

Rehabilitation

9.10	Survey and report on progress in <u>rehabilitation of African infrastructure in sectors supporting agriculture</u>	UN-PAAERD paras. 11.I (b) i & ii
9.10 (a)	Food-processing and other agro-based industries (FAO), IFAD	MTR para. 48
9.10 (b)	Progress report on agro-related industries as well as other aspects of industrial rehabilitation (UNIDO)	MRT para. 48
9.10 (c)	ECA/World Bank to prepare progress report on rehabilitation of transport and communications	Minutes 9th IATF Meeting

9.10 (d)	Aspects of trade and finance are to be the responsibility of UNCTAD	Minutes 9th IATF Meeting

Environment

9.11	Assessment reports on:	
	(i) Incorporation of resource-based management in development efforts (UNEP), FAO, WFP, IFAD, ECA, UNESCO, UNIDO, NGOs	MTR para. 49
	(ii) Effectiveness of new measures to combat drought and desertification (UNSO), UNEP, FAO, IBRD, WFP, IFAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNCTAD, UNDP, NGOs	MTR para. 49

Human resources development

9.12	Receive ECA-IATF system-wide reports on Follow-up from Khartoum Conference and agree appropriate action, including mobilizing support of donor governments, NGOs, etc. (UN Inter-agency Task Force on Human Resources Development and Utilization in Africa)	MTR paras. 52,71
9.13	Comprehensive assessment of progress, problems in strengthening engagement of African women's agents of development at all levels (ECA/UNIFEM), CSDHA, ILO, DTCD, DIESA, ILO, UNFPA, UNIDO, UNESCO, NGOs	MTR para. 52

Population

9.14	Comprehensive assessment of African Population Policies and Kilimanjaro Programme of Action in relation to UN-PAAERD (UNFPA-ECA), DIESA, ECA, World Bank DTCD	MTR para. 50

Economic integration

9.15	Assessment of strengthening of co-operation and economic integration in priority sectors in the region, and international support thereof (ECA), UNDP, World Bank, ADB, UNCTAD, Other agencies; OAU	MTR paras. 60,69

South-South co-operation

9.16	Additional to appropriate coverage in reports above (including on trade), an assessment of progress, problems and opportunities in <u>core-related and consumer-goods industries</u> (UNCTAD/UNDP), ECA, FAO, AFC, UNIDO	MTR para. 72

Development support communications

9.17	Regional assessment of capacities and needs in development support communications (UN-PAAERD priorities, with special emphasis on popular participation and use of communication techniques for intensified training in all sectors (UN-PAAERD secretariat), UNDP, UNICEF, ILO, FAO, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNDP	MTR para. 51

Non-governmental organizations

10.	Additional to the involvement of relevant NGOs in activities above, a report on increased co-operation of UN bodies with their international partners in the implementation of the UN-PAAERD. (UN-PAAERD secretariat) with UN-NGLS/New York and Geneva, ILO	MTR para. 75

Annex II

TENTH MEETING OF THE UN INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UN-PAAERD

(List of documents distributed at the meeting)

I. UN-PAAERD MONITORING REPORTS

	Title	Lead agency
1.	"Development Prospects for Severely Indebted Countries and the Evolving Debt Strategy"	WORLD BANK/IMF
2.	Priority: Africa - Programme of Action proposed by the Director-General (1990-1995)	UNESCO
3.	Priority: Africa - Annex I - Main activities for which provision is made for the Africa region in the draft programme and budget for 1990-1991	UNESCO
4.	The application of the programme approach to the analysis and programming of food-processing and other agro-related industrial sub-sectors in Africa, including input industries	UNIDO
5.	Industrial rehabilitation in Africa, progress report prepared by the regional and country studies branch	UNIDO
6.	Drought and desertification in the context of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD) 1986-1990	
7.	Implementation of UN-PAAERD: Progress report on the rehabilitation of transport and communications, 1989-1990	ECA
8.	Progress report on strengthening of co-operation and integration in priority sectors thereof	ECA

9.	Assessment of African population policies based on the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action and the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development	UNFPA
10.	Technical co-operation in Africa: Issues and concerns for improving effectiveness	WORLD BANK/UNDP
11.	Roles of food aid in Africa's recovery and development	WFP
12.	Report on food processing and other agro-based industries in Africa (1986-1990)	FAO
13.	UN-PAAERD progress report on the engagement of African women as agents of development at all levels	UNIFEM
14.	UN-PAAERD Inter-agency activities: Monitoring and reporting activities during 1989-1991 - Contribution of the technology programme	UNCTAD
15.	Progress report on UN-PAAERD: Contribution from ECDC division	UNCTAD
16.	Report on the replenishment of the African Development Fund on measures taken to increase the disbursement rate of the African Development Bank Group	ADB
17.	Recent developments in the economic integration process of developing countries	UNCTAD
18.	Review of developments in the area of trade and monetary and financial co-operation among developing countries	UNCTAD
19.	Review of development in the area of trade and monetary and financial co-operation among developing countries, annexes	UNCTAD
20.	Some areas of ECDC for new initiatives and priority attention	UNCTAD

21.	South African destabilization: The economic cost of non-violent resistance to apartheid	UN-IATF/ECA

II. REPORTS ON IMPACT OF STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT, SOCIAL DIMENSION OF SAPs AND ALTERNATIVES TO SAPs

1.	Report on reckoning with the social dimensions of adjustment programmes	ADB
2.	Progress of initiatives benefiting sub-Saharan Africa	WORLD BANK/IMF
3.	Sub-Saharan Africa: From crisis to sustainable growth. A long-term perspective study	WORLD BANK
4.	Problems and issues in structural adjustment	WORLD BANK/IMF
5.	Social Development in Africa: A focus on people. An update paper	WORLD BANK
6.	Social development in Africa report - statistical data	WORLD BANK
7.	Social development in Africa report - country time series	WORLD BANK
8.	Social development in Africa report - social actions country index	WORLD BANK
9.	United Nations Development Programme regional programme for Africa, fourth cycle. Assessment of social dimensions of structural adjustment in sub-Saharan Africa	UNDP/ADB WORLD BANK
10.	Tripartite Symposium on Structural Adjustment and Employment in Africa, Nairobi, 16-19 October 1989 - Report of the meeting	ILO
11.	Tripartite Symposium on Structural Adjustment and Employment in Africa, Nairobi, 16-19 October 1989. The challenge of adjustment in Africa	ILO
12.	ILO, structural adjustment and social dimensions. A note for the tenth meeting of the UN-IATF in the context of UN-PAAERD	ILO

13.	Agricultural labour markets and structural adjustment in sub-Saharan Africa	FAO
14.	Structural adjustment policy sequencing in sub-Saharan Africa	FAO
15.	Institutional changes in agricultural product and input markets and their impact on agricultural performance	FAO
16.	The effects of trade and exchange rate policies on production incentives in agriculture	FAO
17.	A summary of the discussion by an interregional advisory panel on "The effects, in UNESCO's field of competence, of policies and measures of financial and budgetary adjustment resulting from world economic difficulties" (Paris 6-9 March 1989)	UNESCO
18.	Debt and structural adjustment policies of developing countries. impact on economic integration	UNCTAD
19.	African alternative framework to structural adjustment programmes for socio-economic recovery and transformation (AAF-SAP)	ECA

OTHERS

1. Report of the ninth meeting of the UN-IATF on the Follow-up on the Implementation of UN-PAAERD at the Regional Level, Paris, 4-5 May 1989

2. Note on Preparations for the International Conference on Popular Participation, Arusha, the United Republic of Tanzania, 12-16 February 1990.

A JOINT STATEMENT ON AFRICA'S LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT

1. At the invitation of Mr. Barber B. Conable, President of the World Bank, the heads and senior officials of several major United Nations agencies committed to Africa's economic and social progress, as well as of the Organization for African Unity and the African Development Bank, met to discuss issues related to the region's economic recovery and long-term development. The meeting was held at World Bank headquarters in Washington, D.C., on 10 May 1989.

2. Following upon recent reports by the World Bank/UNDP and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), participants exchanged views on the serious development challenges facing Africa, and particularly on the structural adjustment programs currently being implemented by many African Governments. While participants recognized that areas of disagreement remained, they emphasized their determination to work together and collaborate in the wide areas of consensus that exist. They agreed to strengthen mechanisms to achieve that result.

3. It was emphasized that policy reforms, whatever their form, must be relevant to specific country situations and must be designed, implemented and owned by the African countries themselves. It was further noted that the process of gaining public understanding and acceptance of the need for adjustment measures and economic transformation should be as broad-based as possible within the countries concerned.

4. Among the other major points of consensus agreed upon by the participants were the following:

(a) As a basic approach to adjustment issues has evolved, it has become clear that adjustment must be seen as part of a long-term development approach and that it must take full account of the human dimension. Stronger efforts are required to assure that this consensus is translated into action. The future challenge is to assist Africa to transform the condition of its economies still threatened with stagnation and decline to sustainable growth with equity.

(b) While sustainable economic growth is imperative, it is only the means to the overarching objective of improving human welfare -- for example, reducing infant mortality, increasing educational opportunity, improving health and ensuring food security. Economic adjustment must lead to the long-term improvement in the quality of life of the African people. Particular attention should be given to protecting vulnerable groups during the adjustment process, including protection of core budget expenditures on social sector programs. Special emphasis should be placed on employment opportunities.

(c) The shortage of technical skills and weak institutions are major impediments to Africa's growth and development. Priority should be given, therefore, to human resource development and national capacity building.

(d) The sustainable development and modernization of agriculture is central to Africa's future growth. New and appropriate agricultural technologies, and effective extension services, should be pursued.

(e) Conserving Africa's natural resource base and protecting the environment are urgent priorities. No time should be lost in designing and implementing environmental action plans.

(f) The process of increasing and improving regional economic co-operation and integration in Africa should be accelerated.

(g) Promotion of the private sector is of vital importance.

5. Participants agreed that while Africa's major efforts to achieve economic growth and recovery should be recognized, the continent continues to be confronted by major problems, including weak commodity prices and terms of trade. The donor community has responded with substantial flows that are being monitored in the context of the UN-PAAERD which was established following the 1986 special session of the United Nations General Assembly. Increased donor assistance is, however, required to support the efforts of the African governments to expand their reform programs, and promote sustained economic growth. Substantial debt relief measures are needed, since the external debt burden remains a severe constraint on African development.

6. The distinctive and complementary roles of the various agencies working to support Africa's development were recognized. It was agreed that further steps should be taken to strengthen collaboration and the channels of communication among the Bretton Woods institutions, United Nations agencies and the African regional organizations. It was agreed that this process of consultation should be continued. Participants expressed appreciation to UNDP for its offer to host the next meeting. In addition, participants agreed that it would be useful to further explore issues of structural adjustment, based on studies and major reports prepared by various agencies represented at this meeting.

7. Mr. Barber B. Conable was commended by participants for his constructive initiative in convening the meeting. The exchange of views was welcomed and widely viewed as being beneficial to Africa's long-term development prospects.

8. Among those attending the meeting were Professor Adebayo Adedeji, Under-Secretary General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa; Dr. Bertram Collins, Co-ordinator of the Steering Committee on the United Nations Programme of Action for African Recovery and Development; Mr. William Draper III, Administrator, Mr. Arthur Brown, Associate Administrator, and Mr. Pierre-Claver Damiba, Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa, UNDP; Mr. Richard Jolly, Deputy Director, UNICEF; Mr. Babacar N'Diaye, President, African Development Bank; Mr. Ide Oumarou, Secretary-General, Organization of African Unity; Mr. G.E. Gondwe, Deputy Director, African Department, International Monetary Fund, and Mr. David Whaley, representing the Director General for Development and International Economic Co-operation. The World Bank was represented by Mr. Barber B. Conable, President; Mr. Moeen A. Quareshi, Senior Vice President, Operations; Mr. Edward V.K. Jaycox, Vice President, Africa Region; and Mr. Stanley Fischer, Vice President and Chief Economist. The African Executive Directors to the World Bank, Messrs. Benachenhou, Funna and Milongo also attended.